a second expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the second expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts of the second expansion strut pair at a proximal end of the second expansion strut pair, a plurality of the second expansion strut pair forming a second expansion column;

a first connecting strut including a first connecting strut proximal section and a first connecting strut distal section, the first connecting strut proximal section being coupled to the distal end of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column and the first connecting strut distal section being coupled to the proximal end of the second expansion strut pair of the second expansion column, a plurality of the first connecting strut forming a first connecting strut column that couples the first expansion column to the second expansion column;

a third expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a third joining strut of the third expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts at a proximal end of the third expansion strut pair, a plurality of the third expansion strut pair forming a third expansion column;

a second connecting strut including a second connecting strut proximal section and a second connecting strut distal section, the second connecting strut proximal section being coupled to the distal end of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column, the second connecting strut distal section being coupled to the proximal end of the third expansion strut pair of the third expansion column, a plurality of the second connecting strut forming a second connecting strut column that couples the second expansion column to the third expansion column; and

wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column has a longitudinal axis offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column.

17.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein the second expansion strut of the third expansion strut pair in the third expansion column has a longitudinal axis that is offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair of the second expansion

column.

18.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein the first and second expansion columns are each unbroken, continuous structures.

19.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs and second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs.

20.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs, second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs and third linear sections coupling the first and second linear sections.

21.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs, second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs, third and fourth linear sections coupling the first and second linear sections.

22.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs, second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs, third and fourth linear sections coupling the first and second linear sections.

23.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column and the second expansion strut of the third expansion strut pair in the third expansion column have the same longitudinal axis.

24.(New) The stent of claim 16, wherein the second expansion strut of the first expansion pair in the first expansion column and the first expansion strut of the second expansion pair in the second expansion column have the same longitudinal axis.

25.(New) The stent of claim 16 wherein the longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column has a longitudinal axis offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column.

26. (New) A stent in a non-expanded state, comprising:

a first expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the first expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts at a distal end of the first expansion strut pair, a plurality of the first expansion strut pair forming a first expansion column;

a second expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the second expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts of the second expansion strut pair at a proximal end of the second expansion strut pair, a plurality of the second expansion strut pair forming a second expansion column;

a first connecting strut including a first connecting strut proximal head section and a first connecting strut distal tail section, the head section being coupled to the distal end of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column and the tail section being coupled to the proximal end of the second expansion strut pair of the second expansion column, a plurality of the first connecting strut forming a first connecting strut column that couples the first expansion column to the second expansion column;

a third expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a third joining strut of the third expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts at a proximal end of the third expansion strut pair, a plurality of the third expansion strut pair forming a third expansion column, the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column having a longitudinal axis that is parallel to and offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column, and the second expansion strut of the third expansion strut pair in the third expansion column has a longitudinal axis that is parallel to and offset from a longitudinal axis of first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair of the second expansion column, a plurality of the third expansion strut pair forming a third expansion column;

a second connecting strut including a proximal head section and a distal tail section, the head section being coupled to the distal end of the second expansion strut pair in the second

expansion column and the tail section being coupled to the proximal end of the third expansion strut pair of the third expansion column, a plurality of the second connecting strut forming a second connecting strut column that couples the second expansion column to the third expansion column, and

wherein a ratio of a number of expansion struts to a number of connecting struts is selected to provide a sufficient stent flexibility to permit introduction of the stent through a selected blood vessel.

27.(New) The stent of claim 26 wherein the first and second expansion columns are each unbroken, continuous structures.

28.(New) The stent of claim 26, wherein a width of a portion of the second expansion struts is substantially the same as a width of a portion of the first expansion struts.

29.(New) The stent of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs and second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs.

30.(New) The stent of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs, second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs and third linear sections coupling the first and second linear sections.

31.(New) The stent of claim 26, wherein at least a portion of the first connecting struts have first linear sections coupled to joining struts of first expansion strut pairs, second linear sections coupled to joining struts of second expansion strut pairs and third and fourth linear sections coupling the first and second linear sections.

32.(New) The stent of claim 26, wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair and the second expansion strut of the third expansion strut pair have the same longitudinal axis.

33.(New) The stent of claim 26, wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column and the second expansion strut of the third expansion strut pair in the third expansion column have the same longitudinal axis.

34.(New) A stent in a non-expanded state, comprising:

a first expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the first expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts at a distal end of the first expansion strut pair, a plurality of the first expansion strut pair forming a first expansion column;

a second expansion strut pair including a first expansion strut positioned adjacent to a second expansion strut and a joining strut of the second expansion strut pair that couples the first and second expansion struts of the second expansion strut pair at a proximal end of the second expansion strut pair, a plurality of the second expansion strut pair forming a second expansion column;

a first connecting strut including a first connecting strut proximal section, a first connecting strut distal section and a first connecting strut intermediate section, the first connecting strut proximal section being coupled to the distal end of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column and the first connecting strut distal section being coupled to the proximal end of the second expansion strut pair of the second expansion column, a plurality of the first connecting strut forming a first connecting strut column that couples the first expansion column to the second expansion column,

the first connecting strut being non-parallel to the first expansion strut of the first expansion pair and the second expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair.

35.(New) The stent of claim 34 wherein the first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column has a longitudinal axis offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 which are being prosecuted in a parent application have been canceled from the instant application without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 16-35 have been added. Support for new claims 16-35 is found in Fig. 1 of the application as filed. Fig. 1 is